



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MONEY LAUNDERER SENTENCED

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on May 30, 2002, OVIDEO ORELLANA DE LEON, born September 18, 1981, of Phoenix, Arizona, was sentenced to 30 months, by United States District Judge Earl H. Carroll, in Phoenix, Arizona.

In March 2001, ORELLANA was arrested outside of a residence near 28th Street and McDowell Road in Phoenix, AZ. This residence, owned by the defendant's mother, was being rented by alien smugglers who harbored illegal aliens at the home. ORELLANA would assist the alien smugglers by receiving and picking up money at money transmitters and by purchasing plane tickets for the smuggled aliens with proceeds of the illegal activity. ORELLANA, a native of Guatemala and a legal permanent resident, had been engaging in this activity since at least 1999.

ORELLANA had entered a plea of guilty on January 16, 2002 to Money Laundering charges in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1957 and agreed to forfeit over \$13,000.

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At sentencing, Judge Carroll gave the defendant an enhancement for obstruction of justice due to the defendant's history of untruthfulness in this case. ORELLANA received a sentence of 30 months, a \$6,000 fine, and three years Supervised Release.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, United States Customs Service, Arizona Attorney General's Office, and Arizona Department of Public Safety.

The prosecution was handled by Lisa Jennis Settel, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-01-381-PHX-EHC
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